

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview of October 4, 2007 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 24. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-27.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.133(b), Applicants request that the following statement of the substance of the interview conducted on October 4, 2007 be made of record. In that telephone interview Examiners Ives J. Wu and Duane Smith discussed claims 1 and 8 with Applicants' representative Robert Hayden. In that interview Applicants noted that Johnsgard (US 4,986,838) lacks a manifold that is required by claim 1. Further, Applicants discussed Kennedy et al. (US 5,927,957) and Lane et al. (US 5,846,275) with respect to claim 8. Examiner Smith went on record that Kennedy et al. is non-analogous art and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7, 15-23, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnsgard (US 4,986,838) in view of Han (US 6,090,208). Claims 8-14 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnsgard in view of Han and Kennedy et al. (US 5,927,957) as evidenced by Lane et al. (US 5,846,275).

Independent claims 1 and 26 both are directed to a scrubber inlet device comprising an inlet manifold. In the Office action, the Examiner notes that Johnsgard teaches an inlet pipe 18 (Office action, page 3) but does not equate the inlet pipe 18 with the inlet manifold of claim 1. As noted in the telephonic interview of October 4, 2007, a "manifold" is defined as a "fluid conductor which provides many ports." (see

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&rlz=1T4GGIC_enUS220US221&defl=en&q=define:manifold&sa=X&oi=glossary_definition&ct=title - a copy of which is attached hereto). Applicants note that the specification is consistent with this definition and states, for example, that "[t]he inlet manifold 104 includes at least one port 106 configured to be coupled to an exhaust line from a semiconductor (or other) processing chamber, an inlet 108 configured to be

coupled to a source of heated gas, and an outlet 110 configured to be coupled to the scrubber interface device 102." (paragraph [0015]). Here, and in FIG. 4, it is made clear that the manifold 104 is a fluid conductor which provides many ports, specifically the at least one port 106 and an inlet 108. On the other hand, the inlet pipe 18 of Johnsgard is merely a pipe without any ports and therefore cannot be considered a manifold. Since Johnsgard does not teach a manifold, the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness and the Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claims 1 and 26, and claims 2-7 and 15-19 depending from claim 1, be withdrawn.

Claim 20 recites a method comprising receiving an effluent gas stream into a manifold. Since Johnsgard does not teach a manifold, Johnsgard also cannot teach the limitation of receiving an effluent gas stream into a manifold. Again, the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness and the Applicants therefore request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 20, and claims 21-23 and 27 depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

Applicants wish to point out the further patentability of several of the other dependent claims. Claims 8-14 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnsgard in view of Han and Kennedy et al. as evidenced by Lane et al. Since Kennedy et al. is now recognized to be non-analogous art, this rejection should be withdrawn. Moreover, Applicants wish to emphasize the teaching of Lane et al. as it applies to claim 8. Specifically, Lane et al. provides:

The aforementioned inlet clogging problems may require the incorporation of plunger mechanisms or other solids removal means to keep the inlet free of solids accumulations, *however these mechanical fixes add considerable expense and labor to the system*. In other instances, the inlet clogging problems may be systemic and require periodic preventative maintenance to keep the inlet free of solids accumulations. Such maintenance, however, requires shut-down of the system and loss of productivity in the manufacturing or process facility with which the inlet is associated. (col. 1 lines 52-62, emphasis added).

Applicants here emphasize that although plungers are certainly well known mechanical devices, Lane et al. provides specific reasons why one of ordinary skill in the art would not employ a plunger in precisely the type of application claimed herein. MPEP §2143.01 provides

that “[w]here the teachings of two or more prior art references conflict, the examiner must weigh the power of each reference to suggest solutions to one of ordinary skill in the art, considering the degree to which one reference might accurately discredit another” citing *In re Young*, 927 F.2d 588, 18 USPQ2d 1089, 562 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Thus, even if another search uncovers an example of a plunger used to clear blockages, the Examiner must weigh the power of Lane et al. against such other reference when considering the question of whether one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to add a plunger to some hypothetical device that would read on claim 1.

All pending claims are allowable and Applicants therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should the Examiner have questions, the Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached at the number provided.

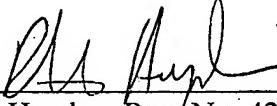
Respectfully submitted,

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10/11/07

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Related phrases: [exhaust manifold](#) [intake manifold](#) [manifold pressure](#) [manifold vacuum](#) [manifold nib](#) [stable manifold](#) [manifold system](#) [inlet manifold](#) [manifold decomposition](#) [spray manifold](#)

Definitions of manifold on the Web:

- a pipe that has several lateral outlets to or from other pipes
- manifold paper: a lightweight paper used with carbon paper to make multiple copies; "an original and two manifolds"
- make multiple copies of; "multiply a letter"
- a set of points such as those of a closed surface or an analogue in three or more dimensions
- multiply: combine or increase by multiplication; "He managed to multiply his profits"
- many and varied; having many features or forms; "manifold reasons"; "our manifold failings"; "manifold intelligence"; "the multiplex opportunities in high technology"
wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn
- In scuba diving a manifold is used to connect two diving cylinders (tanks) with breathing gas, allowing longer dive times or greater safety due to redundancy. This configuration provides several advantages when more than usual gas is needed or when redundancy is needed. ...
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifold_\(scuba\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifold_(scuba))
- A manifold is an abstract mathematical space in which every point has a neighborhood which resembles Euclidean space, but in which the global structure may be more complicated. In discussing manifolds, the idea of dimension is important. ...
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifold
- In automotive engineering, an intake manifold or inlet manifold is a part of an engine that supplies the fuel/air mixture to the cylinders. An exhaust manifold or header collects the exhaust gases from multiple cylinders into one pipe.
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifold_\(automotive_engineering\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifold_(automotive_engineering))
- A filter assembly containing multiple ports and integral relating components which services more than one fluid circuit.
www.texacourusa.com/glossary/m.html
- A fitting that connects a number of branches to the main; serves as a distribution point.
www.thedrainsurgeon.com/terms.html
- A casting of passages or set of pipes which connect the cylinders to an inlet or outlet source.
www.e-warrantysolutions.com/glossary/auto-warranty-glossary-m.asp
- A topological space that is "locally Euclidean" in the sense that every point is contained in an open set that is homeomorphic to an open set of Euclidean n-space R . Additional conditions such as differentiability are often imposed. ...
cgd.best.vwh.net/home/fit/fit10.htm

- A generalization of -dimensional space in which a neighborhood of each point, called its chart, looks like Euclidean space. The charts are related to each other by Cartesian coordinate transformations and comprise an atlas for the manifold. ...
www.geom.uiuc.edu/docs/research/ieee94/node21.html
- an accessory system of piping to a main piping system that serves to divide a flow into several parts, to combine several flows into one, or to reroute a flow to any one of several possible destinations.
www.fi.edu/fellows/fellow2/jan99/new/oilvocab.html
- A pipework or header system, usually inter-connected by means of valves.
www.ng.total.com/07_total_nigeria_crosscontent/0705_glossary.htm
- (mani-fold) (mani-fold) a tube fitting with several outlets on its sides for connecting to other tubes.
www.mercksource.com/pp/us/cns/cns_hl_dorlands.jspzQzpgzEzzSzppdocsSzusSzcommonzSz dorlandszSz
- Set of pipes and valves directing the effluent or production into facilities. Mantle: Impermeable stratum overlaying a reservoir which prevents the hydrocarbons contained in it from migrating to other rocks. Mantle : The part of the earth between the crust and the central core. ...
www.flowmeterdirectory.com/oil_gas_terms.html
- A thin strong, uncoated paper used for business forms and documents, where low bulk is required
www.mictom.co.uk/dictionary.php
- An arrangement of piping valves to provide interconnecting links between a number of pumps, tanks, and lines at a pump station.
www.mapl.com/about/termoil.html
- (plural: manifolds)
open-dictionary.com/Manifold
- A device that performs the same function as a false bottom. It consists of copper tubing which is slotted on the bottom with a hacksaw. This device allows the removal/separation of the sweet liquor from the grain during sparging.
xb-70.com/beer/chicha/terms.htm
- A pipe or assembly into which the filter elements are connected to from one common discharge for the filtrate.
www.filtrationspecialist.com/gft.html
- a subsea assembly that provides an interface between the production pipeline and flowline and the well. ...
www.fmctechnologies.com/AnnualReport/2005/Glossary.aspx
- A fluid conductor which provides many ports.
www.swtc.edu/Ag_Power/hydraulics/terms.htm

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